

FINAL REPORT

Indian Child Welfare Summit May 21-23, 2006 “Protecting Our Children – Retaining Our Culture”

The ICW Summit was held at the Quinault Beach Resorts in Ocean Shores. This report is a summary of the conference evaluations, workshops, and general recommendation for improvement. The success of the ICW Summit was due in part to the collaborative efforts of a variety of people. The office of Training and Development's conference planner, Diana Gray worked together with the conference committee to create the memorable event.

The conference planning committee included Carmelita Adkins, Kateri Bishop, LouAnn Carter, Colleen Cawston, Sharri Dempsey, Kathy Derbawka, Nancy Dufraine, Helen Fenrich, Roxanne Finney, Michelle Hamilton, Rachel Kupcho, Toni Lodge, Diane Louie, Trudy Marcellay, Don Milligan, Lisa Powers, Tom Tremaine, Betsy Tulee, Diane Waddington, and Helen Zack.

259 people attended the ICW Summit. Participants included Attorneys General and Tribal Court Representatives (28); GAL/CASA participants (10); Local Indian Child Welfare Advisory Committee (LICWAC) members (32); Tribal Representatives (78); DSHS non-CA Staff (12); and Children's Administration staff (99). The summit had many highlights including but not limited to Native art activities with cedar mat weaving and beading instruction, music, drumming, stories and wisdom imparted by inspiring speakers.

General Sessions

Emcee: Lorraine Brave

Invocation – Tribal Elder

Welcome – Quinault Chairperson, Fawn R. Sharp

“Perspective on Working together for Indian Child Welfare”

Cheryl Stephani, Children's Administration Assistant Secretary

Nancy Dufraine, State ICW Program Manager

“Historical Perspective of Local Indian Child Welfare Committees (LICWACs)”

Kathy Womer, Colville Confederated Tribes

Lila Walawitsa, Yakima Nation

“Roles and Responsibilities of LICWAC teams, Tribes and State Staff”

Liz Mueller, Jamestown s'klallam Vice Chairperson Family Services

Administrator, Indian Policy Advisory Committee Chairperson

“The Boarding School Experience”

Phil Lane, CEO, United Indians of all Tribes Foundation,

Keynote Dinner

Gene Tagaban, Raven Dancer, Storyteller

Question and Answer Discussion

Cheryl Stephani, Children's Administration Assistant Secretary

Workshops A total of 12 workshops were presented on the first day and 6 on the second day.

Workshop topics included:

- Tribal Access to IV B Federal Funding
 - Chafee Foster Care Independent Living Program Education & Training Vouchers
 - Tribal Access to SACWIS
- Projects that Benefit the Tribal Community
 - Lummi Nation Se Eye Chen House

- Healing Lodge of Seven Nations
- Challenges & Significant Issues for LICWAC Teams, Part 1
- Best Practice in Applying ICWA
- Understanding & Preserving Tribal Traditions & Culture
- Legal Issues that Drive ICW Practice, Part 1
- Projects that Benefit the Tribal Community
 - Swinomish Wellness Court Program
- Tribal Access
 - To IV E Federal Funding
 - To SACWIS
- Challenges & Significant Issues for LICWAC Teams, Part 2
- Customary Adoptions
- Honoring Government to Government Relationships
- Legal Issues that Drive ICW Practice Today, Part 2
- Projects that Benefit the Tribal Community
 - Puyallup Tribe Family Preservation
 - Puyallup Tribe Independent Living Skills Program
- ICW Case Reviews & ICW Related Proposed Policy Changes
- Tribal Foster Care Program – Keeping our Children Home
- ICW Social Worker Certification Program
- Understanding & Preserving Tribal Traditions & Culture
- Overview of the ICW, Agreements between Tribes and State, Tribal Codes & Court Orders

Evaluations

A total of 198 evaluations were collected. The results indicated that this was a successful conference.

ICW Summit Evaluations



Recommendations

1. Provide more time to address complex issues of ICW and LICWAC practice.
2. Provide more clarity on legal issues around ICW cases.
3. Provide follow-up to participants and move forward with issues raised with training and increased performance.
4. Provide more opportunities to discuss best practice and consistency of LICWAC across the state.
5. More information regarding the impact of Native American children placed with non-native foster parents.
6. More time for the total conference and more chances to attend repeat workshops.
7. Make the ICW Summit an annual event.